DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Division of Simplified Practice

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GUIDING THE FUTURE EXECUTIVE

Interest which is being shown by educational institutions, engaged in training the coming business executives, in simplified practice as a fundemental in modern management, is of the utmost significance, and betokens the turning over of a new leaf in the books of many business plants of the country.

The country is suffering now, and has been for years, from the fact that too large a proportion of its business executives had to learn by bitter experience the proportionate value of matters about which the modern student has a wealth of information at hand. Some of the old-time executives haven't been able even yet to overcome the influence of heritage in matters such as the overdiversity of their products, or in their attitude toward their competitors.

The Department of Commerce, under Secretary Hoover, has become a veritable laboratory for the test of business and industrial methods. And it is a sign of a great educational awakening that more than 50 schools of business administration and related subjects in the colleges and universities of the country are delving into the findings of the various tests, particularily of Simplified Practice.

Some of these universities and colleges include St. Louis University at St. Louis, Mo., Clark University at Worcester, Mass., Emory University at Emory, Ga., Harvard University School of Business Administration at Cambridge, Mass., Washington University at St. Louis, Mo., the Univeristies of Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, North Dakota, Maryland, Purdue University at Lafayette, Ind., Mercer University at Macon, Ga. and others.

The agricultural colleges connected with Cornell University the Universities of Arizona, Nevada, Idaho, South Dakota, Illinois, Ohio State, Missouri, California, Maine, New Hampshire and other places are likewise taking a deep interest in the work.

Perhaps the old adage about not being able to "teach an old dog new tricks" is true. But, it is certain that the students of today are going to face the world with facts in hand which will make them valuable aides in coping with the complexities that have entered business and commerce in recent years.

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If there is one place where uniformity is essential for the protection of life and property, it is in the coupling screw thread for fire hose. The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the National Board of Fire Underwriters, American Waterworks Association, National Fire Protection Association and Chamber Commerce of the United States have worked for a number of years.

and through the American Engineering Standards Committee have issued standards for manufacture and inspection for thread dimensions.

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President William Green of the American Federation of Labor has placed that organization on record in a letter to the Division as being in favor of the principles of Simplified Practice. The worker is keenly interested in cooperating in matters which have a direct bearing on his living costs, and it is recognized that Simplified Practice is of direct effect in this direction.

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R. M. Hudson, Chief of the Division, recently addressed the students and faculty of the School of Commerce and Finance at St. Louis University on Simplified Practice as a means of eliminating industrial waste.

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Simplification of hotel chinaware has brought a price reduction of approximately 15 o/o from at least one pottery which adopted the "recognized sizes" under Simplified Practice, and is making these sizes in four "open stock patterns". Both user and producer benefit.

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Manufacturers of sanitary ware have begun the consideration of simplification of grades and dimensions for their products, the first meeting being held on July 8th. This step is intended to be a further protection to the consumer as well as to the distributor and the plumbing industry.

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American Lumber Standards, representing a tremendous simplification of variety of soft wood yard lumber items, have been in effect a year. Reports to the Central Committee on Lumber Standards, covering the first year indicate that sub-standard lumber is falling off in demand. Surveys made in November 1924 indicated that thinner than standard lumber was 32 o/o of the total. The survey completed July 1, indicated that this grade was but 11 o/o. This shows that standard and extra standard lumber is coming into its own. The survey also showed that standard or extra standard lumber is permissible under 91 o/o of building codes on which reports were received.

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Manufacturers, shipper associations and others using box board will meet in New York on July 29th in the Hotel Commodore to act on Simplified Practice Recommendations reducing the thicknesses of box board for containers and establishing color standards. The program has already been endorsed by a number of shipper organizations.

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Recent surveys by members of the Division of the adherence by the clay brick industry to the Simplified Practice Recommendations show that there is little deviation from the "recognized sizes."

Proposals for the reduction of existing capacities for ten items of aluminum ware, including coffee pots, colanders, roasters and other items, by about 50 per cent, have been developed by a simplification committee of the industry, headed by C. R. Jamison of the Enterprise Aluminum Company, Massilon, Ohio. The Tentative Plan is being considered by the entire manufacturing group before Simplified Practice Recommendations are ready for submission to distributors and users.

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While the Division is cooperating with some 350 industrial groups, word comes from individual concerns who are simplifying their lines "on their own". One of these, a manufacturer of anti-skid tire chains, has reduced from 50 to 20 sizes. His jobbers can carry a full line with lower investmemt and quicker turnover and the consumers will get better quality and service, too.

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The National Supply and Machinery Distributors' Association, whose president, B. H. Ackles, was recently added to the Advisory Committee of the Division of Simplified Practice, has begun a survey by its members of the lines they handle, the variety and demand for the different classes of goods. These surveys will indicate what, in the opinion of the distributors, offers the greatest opportunity for further simplification activities.

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Seven Simplified Practice Recommendations in official pamphlet form have been received by the Division recently. They include: No. 29, Eaves trough, No. 23 Plow Bolts; No 25, Hot Water Storage Tanks; No 28 Sheet Steel No. 30 Terne Plate; No. 32, Concrete Building Units; No. 33, Restaurant and Cafeteria Chinaware. These and previous official publications are described in a price list which may be obtained by writing to the Division. Other material may be obtained, describing the Division and its procedure and services, without cost, on request.

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Simplified Practice is one of the subjects being considered as one of the important parts of the program of the National Associatiom of Master Plumbers at its convention in Portland, Ore. Four Simplified Practice Recommendations.- Structural Slate, Brass Lavatory and Sink Traps Range Boilers, and Hot Water Storage Tanks, - have brought themaster plumbers savings in time, money and labor.

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The West Coast is "stepping out". The California Manufacturers Association, with 1,000 members, and the California Fruit Growers' Exchange, 12,000 members, are circularizing their members for closer cooperation in Simplified Practice. Both have pledged their facilities and assistance in furthering the work of the Division.

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Manufacturers of tin containers for vegetable and fruit products have nearly completed a tentative program for Simplification of sizes and will meet July 21 to submit their proposed reductions of dimensions.